Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.17/22
1 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventeenth session
Nairobi, 10-21 May 1993

ITEM 4(a):* GENERAL POLICY ISSUES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1992
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains in very abbreviated form a description of the contents of the six chapters of the Annual Report of the Executive Director 1992: (i) NEP in Retrospect 1972-1992; (ii) The Coordinating and Catalytic Role of UNEP; (iii) The Environment Programme; (iv) Intergovernmental Legislation of Relevance to UNEP; (v) Financial and Administrative Matters; and (vi) A Look to the Future. Additionally, the 1992 Annual Report contains two annexes: (i) List of member States of the UNEP Governing Council; and (ii) Distribution of UNEP staff in the Professional Category and Above by Region, Nationality and Level as at 31 December 1992.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council, recalling its decision 16/5, paragraph 1 on the rationalization of Governing Council documentation, may wish to take note of the Executive Summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director.

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* Refers to the number of the item on the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/GC.17/1).

1992 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In its decision 16/5, paragraph 1, on the rationalization of Gove Council documentation, the Council requested the Executive Director, *inter alia*, to continue to issue his annual report on an annual basis and in official languages, but not as an official document of the Council. A executive summary of the annual report was to be submitted to the Coun highlighting the policy issues involved and the proposed suggested act the Council. The present report is submitted in compliance with that

2. The 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director is different fro predecessors in that it is not confined to recounting events that took during a single calendar year (1992) but is, in fact, a concise 20-yea history of UNEP, conceived as an analogue to the brief, analytical Sta the-Environment Report 1972-1992.[1] The State-of-the-Environment Repor described changes and developments in the world's environment in the t decades since the Stockholm Conference, whereas the 1992 Annual Report the history and development of the machinery and institutions set up i by the United Nations General Assembly to deal with the environment.

Chapter I

3. In this chapter, entitled "UNEP in Retrospect: 1972-1992", an ove provided of the establishment and development of UNEP from the Stockho Conference in 1972 to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environmen Development (UNCED). Beginning with the challenges that confronted delegations at Stockholm - their differing views about the very concep "environment"; how best to tackle the holistic issue of environment; t type of institutional arrangements that needed to be established withi United Nations system to deal with the problem; the physical location new institution - the chapter describes how the fledgling institution initial problems, establishing itself as the first United Nations secr headquarters to be located in a developing country and carving out its among the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations sys brief account is given of the important political decisions of the Gov Council at its first session in formulating procedures for the Environ Fund and approving UNEP's initial programme of work.

4. UNEP's efforts to fulfil its coordinating mandate are then sketch (though presented in greater detail in chapter II), explaining the difficulties encountered as well as the achievements. Part of the cha devoted to describing the evolution of the concept of "environment" ov twenty-year history of UNEP. The chapter concludes with very brief hi of some of UNEP's more successful achievements.

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[1] Issued as document UNEP/GCSS.III/2.

Chapter II

5. The second chapter, "The Coordinating and Catalytic Role of UNEP", begins with an account of UNEP's coordinating and catalytic role within the United Nations system, starting with the Environment Coordination Board (ECB), established by the General Assembly in 1972,[2] the Administrative Committee on Coordination which subsequently assumed the role of the ECB, and the formation and accomplishments of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM). The efforts to coordinate the programme of environmental activities within the United Nations system are described, followed by several examples of cooperation and coordination between UNEP and other United Nations agencies/organizations at the working level, including inter-agency structures and networks coordinated by UNEP.

6. The second part of the chapter relates how UNEP exercised its coordinating and catalysing role outside the United Nations system, with intergovernmental bodies, the scientific community, with non-governmental organizations, women's and youth groups, and with the media. A brief account is also given of the secretariats administered by UNEP - the United Nations Scientific Council on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and others. Emphasis throughout this second part of the chapter is on the great number of Governments, organizations and people whose environmental interests and efforts are catalysed and coordinated, directly and indirectly, by UNEP.

Chapter III

7. Chapter III, "The Environment Programme", starts with a general description of the Programme, what it is, how it came about, and how it has evolved over the 20 years since Stockholm. There follows a brief account of the history and development of the three main segments of the Programme: environmental assessment, environmental management, and support activities. Finally, the origin, history and achievements of the various programme elements under each of the three main segments are recounted.

Chapter IV

8. This chapter, entitled "Intergovernmental Legislation of Relevance to UNEP," has four sections, the first of which is devoted to the structure, history and legislation of UNEP's Governing Council. The second and third sections recount the legislative measures adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, respectively during the two decades of UNEP's existence. The last section gives a brief account of United Nations conferences which have had a direct hearing on the work of UNEP.

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[2] General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), IV, of 15 December 1972.

Chapter V

9. In this chapter, "Financial and Administrative Matters," the first section is given over to the history of how UNEP came to be located at Nairobi and the growth of its accommodation in that city. The second section deals with the staffing of UNEP from 1973 to 1992, the growth in numbers, geographical distribution, percentage of women in the staff, etc. The last section of the chapter consists of a twenty-year review of UNEP's income and expenditures, with an analysis of the trends in each of four sources of UNEP's income and explanations as to expenditures.

Chapter VI

10. In this short chapter, "A Look to the Future", the current world situation is reviewed in the context of the environment. The legacy of UNCED is described, followed by the implications of UNCED for UNEP and its future work. The last part of the chapter lays out the challenges for UNEP and the world community in the coming years.